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VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 61, ISSUE NO. 4 MARCH 17, 2004 IT'S *YOUR* NEWSPAPER

Smart People Don't Smoke

■ Higher education lowers smoking rates.

BY SUSAN MALTBY
STAFF WRITER

Need more motivation to study?

You may feel like you're cramming your eyeballs out, but going to college may actually improve your vision as well as your health. Higher education improves your chances of quitting smoking and staying smoke-free according to a study by the National Center for Health Statistics.

Adults with higher levels of education and income generally have more favorable health behaviors in terms of cigarette smoking, physical activity and body weight, according to the study.

The British Medical Journal recently reported that smokers, in addition to being at high risk of diabetes, are up to four times more likely to suffer blindness later in life from age-related macular degeneration than non-smokers. AMD is the most common cause of adult blindness, which results in severe and irreversible loss of central vision.

Dr David Wong, a consultant ophthalmic surgeon from Royal Liverpool hospital, says smokers have a higher risk of developing AMD. According to Dr. Wong, "Stopping smoking is the most important single thing you can do to prevent blindness."

"Stopping smoking is the most important single thing you can do to prevent blindness." - Dr. David

Consultant ophthalmic surgeon Simon Kelly, who led the study, said: "Smokers tend to develop AMD about 10 years earlier than non-smokers and this could be used as a potent message in awareness campaigns. Evidence also indicates that more than a quarter of all cases of AMD with blindness or visual impairment are attributable to current or past exposure to smoking."

Data from the past three years of the ongoing National Health Interview Survey was combined with information from the Centers for Disease Control to provide a higher-than-usual level of detail on important health habits of adults in the United States.

About 23 percent of adults living in the United States in 1999-2001 were "current smokers," meaning they were actively smoking every day or some days, while another 23 percent were former smokers. Those who drop out of high school are more likely to indulge than those with more education.

The habit is also related to occupation. Fewer managers and professionals smoke than do people in other white-collar occupations. Daily cigarette use is most prevalent among blue-collar workers and the unem-

please see *Smoking* page 5

"March in March" Rocks Sacramento

■ More than 15,000 students from community colleges throughout the state bring anger over fee hikes to Sacramento.

JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

KEEP MARCHING - A demonstrator from "Books Not Bombs" exhorts participants to continue on to the Capitol building Monday in Sacramento. Approximately 15,000 students from 109 community colleges throughout California took part in the "March in March."

BY KRISTA CARLSON
STAFF WRITER

More than 15,000 California community college students marched to the steps of the capitol building in Sacramento to protest the new state budget's fee hikes from $18 to $26.

"People don't realize that politics and legislation directly affect them," said Igor Kagan, political affairs commissioner for Valley College's Associated Student Union. "When people start realizing the effects, they'll get involved."

Representatives from 109 California community colleges attended the event, carrying signs and painted mannequins. All nine schools in the Los Angeles district were represented. Government representatives such as Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante also attended.

"Our students are pretty informed," said James Franco, president of the Associated Student Organization at Los Angeles City College. "We don't want education to become an elitist institution."

Every community college has at least one senator and one assemblyman within its district, making those representatives accountable to the students.

"We need to hold them accountable," said Valley's ASU president James Brevard. "We have a lot to lose."

"Your struggle is really California's struggle," said Bustamante. He said he would be meeting with Gov. Schwarzenegger to discuss alternative budget solutions Thursday.

VALLEY PEOPLE

JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

EMT - Frank Flores stands in front of the ambulance he uses at work.

Flores Will Get It Done

■ Valley student qualifies as EMT; Next up: paramedic and firefighter.

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Frank Flores is all business.

The solidly-built, crew-cut, 22-year-old Valley College student buzzed through the requirements to be an Emergency Medical Technician on a carefully-planned trajectory. Next he'll go for his qualification as a paramedic. But all of this is intended to lead to a shot at his greater passion: firefighting.

"It's very competitive to be a firefighter in this area. Just the other week there were about 3,000 applicants at the Glendale-Burbank test; they'll take about 30," said Flores. "But they're in dire need right now for paramedics in the fire department."

Flores gained his certification as an EMT in three months and has done more than 1,000 hours of field work. There are more than 120 questions on the Los Angeles County EMT exam and applicants must score at least 75 percent correct.

"It's very stressful too, because if you mess up one time, you're basically out of it," Flores says of going from Valley's rigorous emergency medical services program to the even more-demanding paramedic school. "I've talked to paramedics I work with and they say they basically have no life for nine months because of the training."

Paramedics, unlike EMTs, can administer drugs and use EKGs, among other things. But, like firefighting, admission to the school is very competitive – and costly – about $6,000. It will entail six months in the classroom, one and a half in the E.R. and many hours riding along.

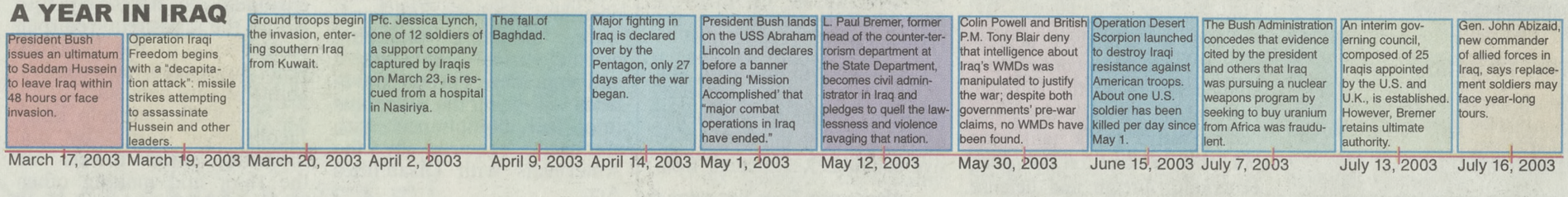
"A lot of people don't want to go through the medical training, they just want to take the firefighting test," says Flores. "So they're having a hard time getting firefighters to go to paramedic school, and [people like me are] dying to go. But it's so hard to get into."

Flores is a real Angeleno, born in Los Angeles and raised in Glendale, where he still lives. He is very close to his brother and two sisters. He says they try to motivate each other in whatever they're doing, personally or professionally.

He didn't always know he wanted to be a firefighter or a

please see *Flores* page 6

A YEAR IN IRAQ


President Bush issues an ultimatum to Saddam Hussein to leave Iraq within 48 hours or face invasion.
March 17, 2003
Operation Iraqi Freedom begins with a "decapitation attack": missile strikes attempting to assassinate Hussein and other leaders.
March 19, 2003
Ground troops begin the invasion, entering southern Iraq from Kuwait.
March 20, 2003
Pfc. Jessica Lynch, one of 12 soldiers of a support company captured by Iraqis on March 23, is rescued from a hospital in Nasiriya.
April 2, 2003
The fall of Baghdad.
April 9, 2003
Major fighting in Iraq is declared over by the Pentagon, only 27 days after the war began.
April 14, 2003
President Bush lands on the USS Abraham Lincoln and declares before a banner reading 'Mission Accomplished' that "major combat operations in Iraq have ended."
May 1, 2003
L. Paul Bremer, former head of the counter-terrorism department at the State Department, becomes civil administrator in Iraq and pledges to quell the lawlessness and violence ravaging that nation.
May 12, 2003
Colin Powell and British P.M. Tony Blair deny that intelligence about Iraq's WMDs was manipulated to justify the war; despite both governments' pre-war claims, no WMDs have been found.
May 30, 2003
Operation Desert Scorpion launched to destroy Iraqi resistance against American troops. About one U.S. soldier has been killed per day since May 1.
June 15, 2003
The Bush Administration concedes that evidence cited by the president and others that Iraq was pursuing a nuclear weapons program by seeking to buy uranium from Africa was fraudulent.
July 7, 2003
An interim governing council, composed of 25 Iraqis appointed by the U.S. and U.K., is established. However, Bremer retains ultimate authority.
July 13, 2003
Gen. John Abizaid, new commander of allied forces in Iraq, says replacement soldiers may face year-long tours.
July 16, 2003

Iraq: One Year and Counting

■ This week marks the anniversary of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS
STAFF WRITER

It has been one year since President Bush delivered his March 17, 2003 ultimatum to Saddam Hussein: Leave Iraq or prepare for war. Three days later, the United States followed a "decapitation strike" at Hussein with a full-blown invasion.

Since then, the United States has spent approximately $120 billion and 552 GI's have died, while some 132,000 American troops remain in the region. Some 8,600 Iraqi civilians and 11,000 Iraqi soldiers have been killed. Saddam Hussein was apprehended in a hole in the ground and the country's nascent democracy has drafted its first constitution. However, with no weapons of mass destruction found, the Bush Administration has distanced itself from its earlier claims regarding Iraq's stockpiles and one of its most important allies, Spain's Jose Maria Aznar was thrown out of office this week.

Debate over the motivation for the invasion and what the exit strategy from the region will be has led to widespread confusion and deep division among Americans.

"Saddam Hussein has the same mentality as Hitler, when Hitler invaded Poland, no one did anything and look what happened," anthropology student, Rochelle Marshall said. "Even if there weren't any weapons of mass destruction, I still think we should have gone into war."

Liberal arts major Irena Martinez disagreed: "I think Bush was just experiencing a power trip by invading Iraq."

The Bush Administration stated that the country's primary reason for going to war with Iraq was ridding the Middle East of Hussein, whom the administration called an imminent threat to U.S. security, a possessor of large stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction, an ally to terrorists including Al Qaeda, and a madman bent on developing nuclear weapons.

"The stated policy of my administration toward Saddam Hussein was very clear," President Bush said in a news conference last year. "Like the previous administration, we were for regime change."

Public confidence in the

SALVADOR AGUILAR/VALLEY STAR

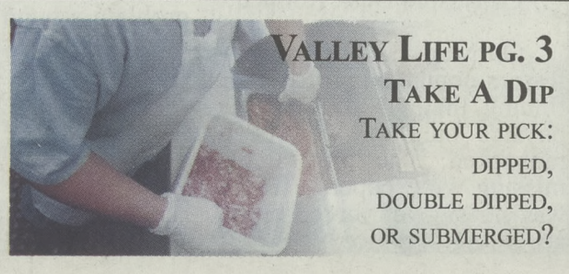
ONE YEAR LATER - A protest held March 30, 2003 in Los Angeles finds citizens deeply divided on the war in Iraq. Polls show that the controversy has not died down yet.

motivation and prosecution of the war has dipped, according to recent opinion polls, including findings that increasing numbers of Americans believe the Bush Administration misled the country about Iraq's weapons stockpiles.

"Should we take the risk that [Hussein] will not some day use these weapons?" U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell asked the U.N. last February. "Leaving Saddam Hussein in possession of weapons of mass destruction for a few more months or years

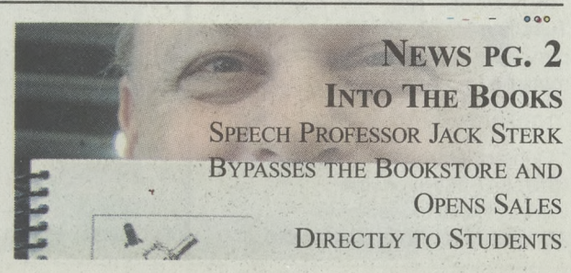
please see *Iraq* page 5

GALLERY PG. 8
MARCH MADNESS
CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES STUDENTS MARCH ON THE CAPITOL.



VALLEY LIFE PG. 3
TAKE A DIP
TAKE YOUR PICK: DIPPED, DOUBLE DIPPED, OR SUBMERGED?

SPORTS PG. 7
A FLOGGING
VALLEY SOFTBALL TAKES CARE OF BUSINESS IN AN 11-3 SPANKING OF THE CITRUS OWLS



NEWS PG. 2
INTO THE BOOKS
SPEECH PROFESSOR JACK STERK BYPASSES THE BOOKSTORE AND OPENS SALES DIRECTLY TO STUDENTS

NEWS REEL

NEW SPANISH PRIME MINISTER PUSHES BUSH'S ALLY OUT OF OFFICE:

Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero replaced Jose Maria Aznar as Spanish Prtime Minister, Thursday.

Aznar was regarded as the United State's second most important ally on Iraq after British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

GAY MARRAIGES HALTED:

The California Supreme Court put a hold on gay marriages in San Francisco Friday after more than 3,400 marriage licenses were issued to same-sax couples.

CAMPUS EYE

UNIVERSITY OF JUDAISM REPRESENTATIVE:

Wednesday, March 17, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (see bottom for more information).

CAREER DAY:

Wednesday, March 17, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Monarch Square.

FINANCIAL AID / FAFSA WORKSHOP:

Wednesday, March 17, 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., sign-up in the Financial Aid Office

LAVC DEBATE TEAM VS. JAPANESE NATIONAL DEBATE TEAM:

Wednesday, March 17, 6:45 p.m., Fireside Room

CAL STATE LA REPRESENTATIVE:

Thursday, March 18, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (see bottom for more information).

A.S.U. INTER CLUB COUNCIL MEETING:

Thursday, March 18, 1 p.m., CC104.

TRANSFER TO CSU WORKSHOP:

Thursday, March 18, 1 p.m. - 2: 30, FL106 (see bottom for more information).

TRIP TO UCSD:

Friday, March 19, 9:30 a.m. - 6: 30 p.m. (see bottom for more information).

CAREER COUNSELING WORKSHOP:

"Career Exploration Technology," Monday, March 22, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Career/Transfer Center (see bottom for more information).

ASU EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING:

Tuesday, March 23, 12:45 p.m., CC104 (for more information call the ASU office at 818-778-5516).

UCLA REPRESENTATIVE:

Monday, March 22, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (for more information see bottom).

CSUN REPRESENTATIVE:

Tuesday, March 23, 9 a.m. - 2: 30 p.m. (see bottom for more information).

UC SANTA CRUZ REPRESENTATIVE:

Tuesday, March 16, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. (see bottom for more information).

* Contact: Barbara Schneider (818) 947-2646, or visit Career/Transfer Center in Administration Bldg., room 126

Development Encouraged

■ Small businesses encouraged to bid on construction projects.

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

The Board of Trustees for the Los Angeles Community College District announced in February that it will be encouraging small, local, emerging businesses to work on and benefit from contracts funded by propositions A and AA.

"The LACCD's community economic development program gives local businesses strong encouragement to bid on improvement projects underway on all of the nine Los Angeles community colleges within the district," said Mona Field, president of the LACCD Board of Trustees. "This outreach effort enables taxpayer dollars from propositions A and AA, which are funding the campus improvements, to be infused back into the community."

The board hopes this revised policy, adopted Jan. 14, will meet its goal of 28 percent participation by local businessesI which are independently owned and operated and generate less than $28.5 million in annual receipts.

The district, which serves more than 130,000 students at nine campuses, is transforming the Los Angeles community colleges into 21st century facilities through construction, modernization and renovation projects funded by the two voter-approved propositions totaling more than $2 billion.

"By setting an assertive goal for diverse participation on bond projects and adding innovative elements, the LACCD Board of Trustees is setting the pace for other organizations to follow," said LACCD Chancellor Peter Landsberger. "I am committed

please see *Development* page 6

Teen Sex May Be Linked to Suicide

■ Recent data adds fuel to the fire for debate over youth sexuality.

BY JOHANA MAAS
STAFF WRITER

To see a young couple kissing in public is nothing new, but lately it's common for those couples to be as young as 13 years old and doing more than just kissing – and new data suggests that might signal trouble ahead.

The average teenager has his or her first sexual experience at 13, but the average age at which parents talk to their children about sex is 13.5. Twenty-three percent of all 14 year olds and 30 percent of all 15 year olds have had sexual intercourse, according to the Alan Guttmacher Institute study, "Sex and America's Teenagers." The Guttmacher Institute calls itself a "not-for-profit corporation for reproductive health research, policy analysis and public education."

"Most of the blame goes to the media for exposing teens to movies with such content, or selling music that includes such words as 'I'm a pimp' in songs," said psychology major Maria Lemus.

Teen sex is linked to depression and suicide, according to a study released by the Heritage Foundation, a self-described "conservative think tank that publishes research on domestic, economic, foreign and defense policy." The study says that 14 percent of teenage females and 6 percent of teenage males who have had sex have attempted suicide, while only 5 percent of abstinent teenage females and 1 percent of teenage males who are sexually inactive have tried to take their own lives.

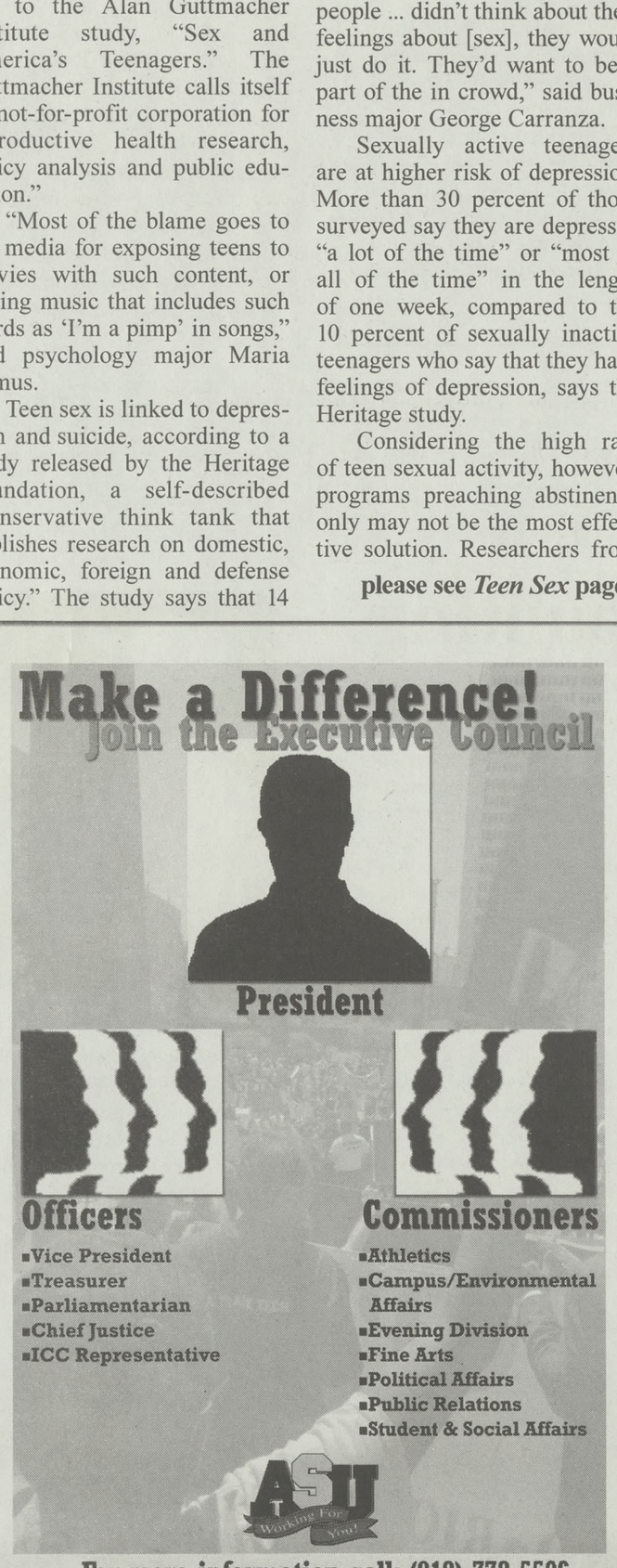
The number one reason teens gave for having sex is peer pressure, according to a poll commissioned by Planned Parenthood. Other popular responses include that it feels good, a lack of understanding of love, rebellion, curiosity and a need to be loved.

"When I was in high school people ... didn't think about their feelings about [sex], they would just do it. They'd want to be a part of the in crowd," said business major George Carranza.

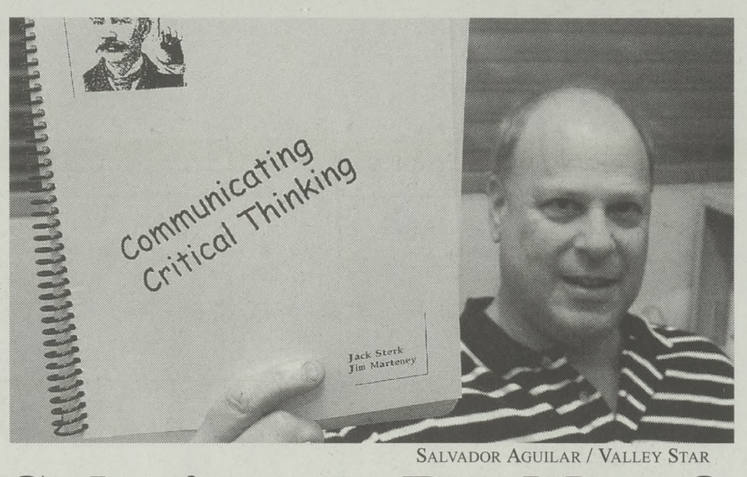
Sexually active teenagers are at higher risk of depression. More than 30 percent of those surveyed say they are depressed "a lot of the time" or "most or all of the time" in the length of one week, compared to the 10 percent of sexually inactive teenagers who say that they have feelings of depression, says the Heritage study.

Considering the high rate of teen sexual activity, however, programs preaching abstinence only may not be the most effective solution. Researchers from

please see *Teen Sex* page 6



For more information call: (818) 778-5506



SALVADOR AGUILAR / VALLEY STAR

Solution or Problem?

■ Self-published textbooks causing controversy

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Students, administrators and instructors at Valley College generally agree on one thing - textbooks cost too much. Some instructors are trying to remedy the situation by publishing their own books, creating controversy.

Across the nation, students are struggling with the price of books, new and used, that will meet their course requirements. The issue of instructors self-publishing tailor-made books for their curriculum and providing them to students at substantially lower costs than any of the campus bookstores has been raising hairs throughout the district for as long as some can remember, according to administration.

"The reason why the practice [self-publishing] is generally frowned upon is because it poses some problems such as consistency in book buy-back as well as tax obligations for the vendor," said Vice President of Academic Affairs Carlie Tronto, while conceding that textbook prices are so high that they sometimes cost more than tuition. "We are not in that business, and frankly, we don't want to be. One always needs to be careful when collecting money from others."

Jack Sterk and Jim Marteney of Valley's speech department wrote a text for the critical thinking class that is scholarly and meets the transfer requirements to the UCs and the CSUs.

"We wanted to take this daunting subject of argumentation and humanize the nature of it," Sterk said. "The book is the class, and is used every session."

Sterk said that, for a couple of years before writing his book, "Communicating Critical Thinking" he used two other texts that were of great expense for students. He believes there is absolutely nothing wrong with or illegal about instructors publishing the materials they teach, providing that the materials are fully used in the classroom, are current and capture the students in a way that gets them excited about what they're learning.

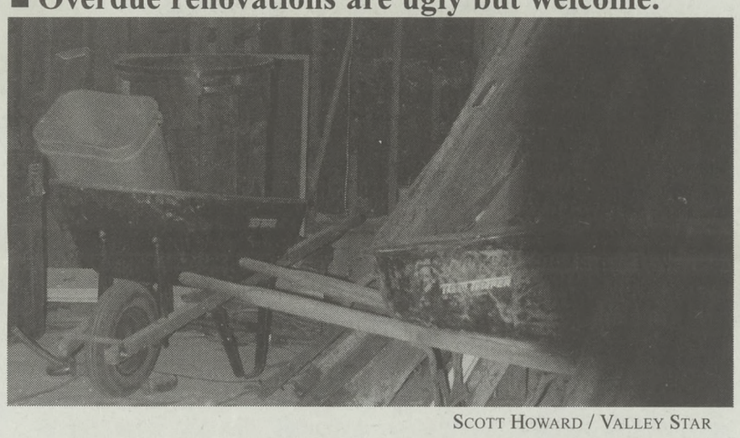
"There should be an encouragement for professors to produce more, but as it stands now," he says, "there's no acknowledgement, no incentive provided, no 'kudos' and I think that's terrible.

"I give a lot of credit to any professor who [self-publishes] because it takes time and effort to put these materials together. When you go to these big publishers, the prices skyrocket. They want a piece of the action and the bookstore wants a piece of the action. These self-published materials are produced at far less of a cost to the student."

please see *Textbook* page 6

Campus Bathrooms May Become Less Nightmarish

■ Overdue renovations are ugly but welcome.



SCOTT HOWARD / VALLEY STAR

BY KRISTA CARLSON
STAFF WRITER

Several restrooms on campus are closed for the duration of the semester. The restrooms in the campus center and math science building are undergoing renovations funded by fall 2002's Proposition A.

Work will include replacement of the restrooms' walls, floors, ceilings, doors, partitions, fixtures and hardware, including plumbing and electrical replacement and upgrades. These renovations will bring the restrooms into full compliance with standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

While the work is in progress, the closed facilities have significantly increased noise and traffic at the open restrooms.

"The volume of traffic in these [open] restrooms has increased tremendously," said Tom Jacobsmeyer, vice president of administration. "We've adjusted the cleaning schedule to meet that demand. The business-journalism restrooms have been particularly hard hit."

The number of custodial visits to high-traffic sites has increased, and a night shift has been moved to the daytime, said Jacobsmeyer. But a shortage of janitorial workers makes upkeep difficult. Valley's plant facilities would need four to five additional custodians to effectively fulfill all the tasks required, but budget cuts in the last two years suspended the college's ability to hire new staff.

"Students can help out," Jacobsmeyer said, "by not throwing paper towels on the floor and making other messes. If we could get their help, we'd be closer to doing a better job."

The College Council discussed the issue at its last meeting.

"A lot of suggestions came out," said James Brevard, Associated Student Union president, of the meeting.

please see *Bathroom* page 6

Campus Crime

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Vehicle Burglaries

Nine vehicles were burglarized during February and March on Valley campus. Four of these break-ins happened within one hour of each other on Feb. 19 in Lot G, according to police.

Professors Desk Robbed

On Mar. 3 a physics professors contacted police after finding that his desk in the physics building, had been ransacked. The only items missing were papers. There was no sign of forced entry, according to police.

Computer Stolen

A computer flat base was stolen from room 244 on Feb. 26 between 10:30-12:30pm. Police report that there was no sign of forced entry nor was there any witnesses to the incident.

Bathroom Vandalism

Graffiti continues to be a problem around campus. The men's bathroom in both the Journalism and Arts Building sustained approximately $300 in damage in February. The similar markings found in both restrooms, appear to be the work of the same person.

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OPINION

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

EACH WEEK, THE VALLEY STAR EXAMINES AN ISSUE FROM TWO SIDES.
THIS WEEK: **SHOULD PRES. BUSH USE 9/11 IMAGES IN ADS?**

■ Make your voice heard! Participate in the online poll at *www.lavalleystar.com*

The Banner of a War President

BY PHILLIP ROBERTSON
MANAGING EDITOR

The criticism President George W. Bush received last week for using images of the wreckage of the World Trade Center and a flag-draped coffin in a television commercial is unfounded. The terrorist attacks of 9/11 are the defining moment of Bush's presidency.

Rita Lasar, who lost her brother in the attack, told CNN that Bush needs to "find some other way to run a campaign without stepping on the bodies of our dead."

Unable to separate herself from the tragedy, Lasar failed to recognize that Bush's leadership and policies since 9/11 have protected this country from further terrorist attacks. The fleeting image of the World Trade Center lasts no more than three seconds during the television commercial, hardly enough time for Bush's opponents to decry the use.

Bush is not the first wartime president to applaud his successes as reasoning for his re-election to office. During the 1944 campaign, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt spoke about American success in World War II and spoke against those who objected to his foreign policy, much as Bush speaks out against his detractors.

"There were some in the Congress and out who raised their voices against our preparations for defense [and] raised their voices against them as hysterical war mongering," Roosevelt said in a Sept. 23, 1944 campaign speech. "There are some politicians who kept their heads buried in the sands while the storms of Europe and Asia were headed our way. These very men are now asking the American people to entrust to them the conduct of our foreign policy and our military policy."

Roosevelt's criticism of the Washington politicians echoes Bush's criticism of those who feel his actions since 9/11 have led this country to the brink of oblivion. In the above speech, Roosevelt touts the military successes of the United States and allies.

His action mirrors Bush's use of the 9/11 image as a part of his re-election. Just as Roosevelt used his successful answer to the Pearl Harbor attacks, Bush uses his successful answer to the 9/11 attacks.

It is unimaginable that the martyred FDR would receive the same charges of insensitivity to the victims of Pearl Harbor as Bush is receiving.

The Pearl Harbor attacks served as a rallying cry for the nation. Quickly the previously neutral nation geared up for war. Only those people seen as complete pacifists spoke out against the war, but unlike today, their voices, as Roosevelt pointed out, were silenced quickly.

The controversy over these commercials represents a desperate effort by political partisans to attack the president on one of his strongest areas — leadership. It is the president's bold leadership and ability to make tough choices that will continue to help America recover and progress.

While the entire world felt terrorist attacks in New York, Washington, DC, Pennsylvania and now Madrid, bold leadership - not partisan bickering – is needed.

Bush continually exercises his bold leadership techniques, brought forth by the rubble of disaster.

As Roosevelt said, "There are tasks ahead of us which we must now complete with the same will and the same skill and intelligence and devotion that have already led us so far on the road to victory."

Bush's Macabre Shell Game

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS
STAFF WRITER

America: land of the free, home of the exploited. That's the message being conveyed by President George W. Bush in his shameless ad campaign that features the tragedy of 9/11 as a re-election gimmick.

How ironic.

This is the same person who ignored the Al Qaeda threat before 9/11, who diverted public attention in the catastrophe's aftermath to the nonexistent threat from Iraq and who stonewalled the investigation of 9/11.

Our president is a hypocrite.

But then again, looking at his track record, why not use the imagery of 9/11 to draw attention away from the unprecedented national debt of $7 trillion and the 8.2 million people unemployed? Let's instead manipulate emotions and ignore pleas made by the victim's families about finding the truth behind 9/11.

"Instead of playing on people's emotions with images of that day, the president would do right to cooperate more with the independent commission investigating the 9/11 attacks so we can learn the truth about what happened on that day and why," said Bob McIlvaine, whose son was killed on 9/11

A strong leader would have immediately investigated the causes of such an occurrence in order to prevent future attacks, i.e. Pearl Harbor and Kennedy's assassination.

Yet never before in national history has such a major event been so unexamined by the government while being so effectively hyped for political advantage.

In fact, Bush did everything in his power to keep a 9/11 investigation from ever occurring.

Soon after the attacks, Vice President Dick Cheney contacted congressional leaders, urging them not to call for an independent investigation. It was only the persistent pressure of the public that finally made Bush cave.

He appointed Henry Kissinger to head the panel. What was this, a bad joke? Kissinger has made a career out of keeping secrets.

Then there are those who try to defend Bush with weak arguments about the moral superiority of the president… hmm, a president who has accomplished nothing worth bragging about.

He even used 9/11 as an excuse for the country's economic failures, citing that the attacks and subsequent military actions are the reason he has turned a record-breaking federal surplus into a record-breaking federal debt.

I think Bush may have a case of amnesia. Doesn't he remember those enormous tax cuts he made? That's the reason we're in debt.

Then there is the war in Iraq, which turns out to have no ties with the ongoing war on terrorism. Iraq represented no immediate threat to the United States. We still haven't found those WMDs Bush kept preaching about. There were many other countries that posed as bigger threats on terrorism: Iran, Syria, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia to name a few.

So what does Bush do? He gathers his immense intellect and lifts the sanctions imposed on Pakistan, a known possessor and proliferator of nuclear weapons.

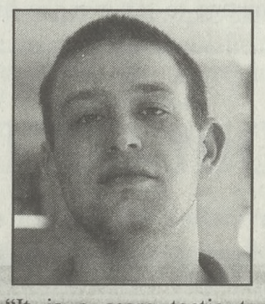
Not a very well planned strategy. Is this the kind of person you want running your country? One who openly mocks the sacred notion of democracy by monopolizing on tragedies in order to gain public acclaim?

I don't think so.

CampusView

How do you feel about President Bush using images of 9/11 in his re-election campaign?

PHOTOS BY SCOTT HOWARD

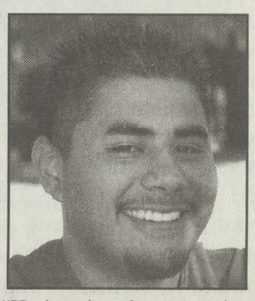


"It is a scare tactic to frighten americans into voting for somebody who they think will protect them."

- Adam Belonis

"There is no reasonable explanation for him doing so. If I wasn't already registered to vote, I'd do so...Just to vote against him."

- Janette Forno



"He is using the wrong images. He should use something he did to save lives, not portray how many people he killed while protecting our country."

- Juan Quijas

"I think it's cheap but most politicians are cheap, and I wouldn't have voted for him [Bush] no matter what he used."

- Lauren Stanley

Word to the Fragmented Coalition of the Disengaged!

BY SUSAN MALTBY
STAFF WRITER

College students were once a fountain of idealism galvanized to affect positive change at local, national, and international levels.

Today, we're still surrounded by a rising tide of a broad range of causes but most student activism seems adrift upon the sea of indifference.

On Monday, thousands of students seized of their oars of social justice and began rowing against the tidal wave of increasing educational costs.

More than 15,000 students marched in Sacramento against the proposed budget which calls for a rise in college fees from $18 to $26 per unit.

Last year 10,000 community college students marched to protest a 61 percent increase in per-unit enrollment fees from $11 to $18.

That wasn't enough momentum to prevent the rise in fees. If the latest hike takes effect it will bring the two-year increase to 136 percent.

There are more than 1 million full-time equivalent students currently enrolled statewide, that means less than 1.5 percent showed up to protest.

The overwhelming majority of students weren't concerned enough to get involved in the movement.

Although the march in the capital wasn't exactly a tsunami of student action, it has proven one thing.

Some of us actually possess a level of initiative beyond that which is needed to master the complexities of the latest Xbox game.

For those students who were outside the recent whirlpool of influence at the capitol, please take a moment to put Grand Theft Auto Vice City on pause and raise your game controllers as a symbol of solidarity.

It was on your behalf that student activists wielded their political influence with hopes of precluding you from ever having to ask the question: "Dude, where's my college education?"

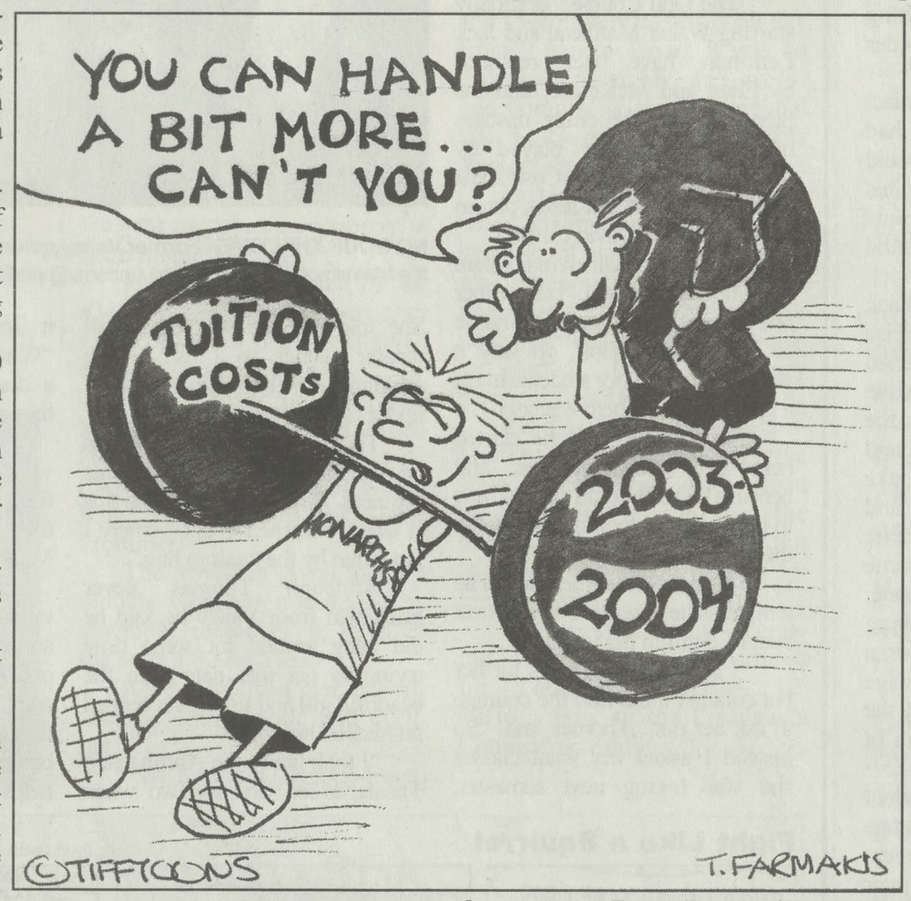


ILLUSTRATION BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR

Imagine a new virtual reality game: Arnie Vice City California. A world where you become the Governator and your mission is to find ways to make millions for yourself and fellow millionaires.

As you drive a virtual Hummer through the state you can steal money from schools, colleges and universities. On-screen dollar amounts show your personal earnings and fiscal score as Governor. Watch the campaign contribution fund level skyrocket as you create tax loopholes for wealthy corporate contributors by slashing spending on social programs.

When you've earned enough points you advance to the next level, Presidential Vice City, where the fun really begins when you can control foreign policy and military action to spark global unrest.

If this game were a true parallel to reality, you would be playing the role of the student whose only mission is to obtain a college degree in the hopes of getting a job that pays anything above minimum wage. Your only power is the ability to make protest signs and march in front of government buildings.

Relatively few students actually marched but that doesn't necessarily mean that most students are nothing but video game junkies.

Nor does it indicate that community college campuses are rampant with droopy-eyed slackers and lethargic stalwarts of inaction.

Many students have children and family obligations. Some were busy working and couldn't take the time to protest. Maybe some students have grown distrustful of all government agencies and feel powerless and hopeless to improve society's future.

Still others were no doubt busy caring for their finicky pet Sea Monkeys who require hourly feedings.

Then again, it is possible that most students actually have an informed opinion and are consciously unconcerned about the proposed tuition increases.

After all, even with the impending fee hike, a $26 college credit is still cheaper than a new video game.

WE'RE NOT PSYCHIC

So tell us what's on your mind! Contact The Valley Star at thevalleystar@yahoo.com, drop by the newsroom at BJ114 or call us at (818) 947-2576.

Letters should be limited to 300 words and may be edited for publication.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

It's Worse Than You Think ...

Dear Editor,

Regarding your story, "Futures Up In Smoke" in the March 3rd 2004 Valley Star:

This once more shows how the government is lying to us when it states that the current war in the Middle East is a war for freedom. If America were a free country, then victimless crimes like drug use would not be penalized by denial of financial aid to students (this is a provision of the 1998 Higher Education Act, HEA). Let me note that this policy also extends to men who refuse to register for Selective Service. The denial of financial aid is a direct violation of the US Constitution's ban on double jeopardy, since it provides an additional sanction for a crime post-trial, and even this without the pretense of due process.

The 1998 HEA attack on student rights was the opening round in a greater assault on higher education. As Friday's demonstration at Valley College shows, the entire community is being devastated by these attacks.

The 1998 HEA's denial of financial aid has to be seen in light of the government's greater assault on civil liberties with the police state provisions of the PATRIOT Act. The real criminals, of course, are the politicians who exploit hysteria over drugs and terrorism to destroy the Constitution. It's time to hold these politicians accountable for their attacks on the Bill of Rights.

Fortunately, there is a resistance to the attack on education rights. Those who want to fight back should check out Raise Your Voice at http://www.raiseyourvoice.com/index.shtml.

Sincerely,
JOSEPH MIRANDA
FORMER VALLEY STUDENT

VALLEY LIFE

VLEPETER@HOTMAIL.COM

WEDNESDAY TO TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY MARCH 17

St. Patrick's Day
Don't drink and drive

THURSDAY, MARCH 18

Faculty Recital: Richard Kahn Jazz Trio in the music recital hall.
11:30a.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 19

No events scheduled

SATURDAY, MARCH 20

Valley Symphony Orchestra with Robert Chauls, conductor, and Yumi Man, violin.
Mainstage Theater
8:00p.m.
$20 gen. admission
$15 student/senior

Blonde Redhead
Henry Fonda Theater
6216 Hollywood Blvd.
7:00p.m.
$17

Two twins from Italy and Japanese addition form the New York born trio. With a new album recently released on 4AD records, the band kicks off it's full U.S. tour in Los Angeles.

SUNDAY, MARCH 21

Musiq
House of Blues Sunset
7:30p.m.
$40

Philadelphia singer has gone multiplatinum in just a few years in part of the neo-soul renaissance.

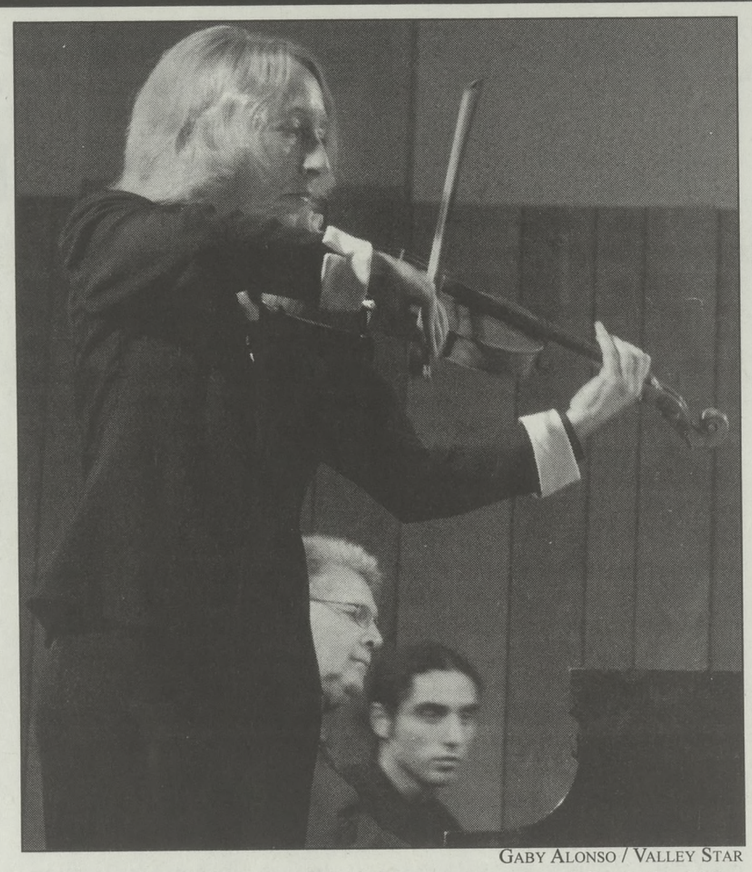
MONDAY, MARCH 22

No events scheduled

TUESDAY, MARCH 23

Modest Mouse
Henry Fonda Theater
6216 Hollywood Blvd.
8:00p.m.
$18

Editor's Pick
These Issaqauh, Washington natives are kicking off their LA set in anticipation of the long awaited album **Good News For People Who Love Bad News**. Issac Brock has a little more anger with a brighter sound in songs like 'Bukowski,' and 'The Good Times Are Killing Me.' Portland based duo The Helio Sequence is currently on tour with Modest Mouse with drummer Benjamin Weikel assuming the drummer spot for Modest Mouse.



GABY ALONSO / VALLEY STAR

THE SOUND OF MUSIC - Sharon Cooper plays hers violin as the Valley College Symphony puts on a show at the Music Recital Hall.

American Music Made

■ Dr. chauls puts on another winning performance

BY CHELSEA BANKS
STAFF WRITER

The Valley Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Dr. Robert Chauls, played "A Program of American Music" Sunday afternoon.

Of the 140 seats in the Music Recital Hall, about 120 were filled, according to Dianne Wintrob, who runs the concert series.

The presentation began at 2:37 p.m. when Dr. Chauls, making only a slight acknowledgement to the eagerly applauding audience, went straight to his seat in front of the piano and began playing "Maple Leaf Rag" by Scott Joplin.

After his piece, he stood and introduced "Sonata for Two Cellos" by Meyer Kupferman.

The younger of the cellist, a guy with a lip ring, handled his instrument with a firm grip, while the other seemed as if she barely touched the strings.

"Anything that sounds like wrong notes, blame it on the composer," said Dr. Chauls as he announced the next piece, a duet between himself and violinist Sharon Cooper.

The show ended with the 12-piece orchestra playing three short symphonies by Darius Milhaud.

The orchestra will be playing more traditional pieces, such as Haydn's Toy Symphony and Beethoven's Symphony No. 7, this Saturday at 8p.m. at the Mainstage Theatre.

El Rey Goes Big

■ Pretty Girls Make Graves brings their headlining tour to LA

BY JOHANA MAAS
STAFF WRITER

Pretty Girls Make Graves drew a big crowd at the El Rey Theater on Saturday. The eager fans waited in anticipation for the band to come on stage. They were scheduled to perform at 11 p.m.

The doors opened at 8 p.m. and an influx of a variety of people slowly filled the theater while heading towards the ballroom. The small red and dark theatre was dimly lit by chandeliers that adorned the ballroom.

About 70 percent of the crowd consisted of young "scene" kids, ranging from ages 16 to 18, who were the ones that quickly rushed into the theatre taking over the merchandise table and crowding the front of the stage. These were the typical indie/emo kids that showed up in their "retro" do-it-yourself attire. The other 30 percent consisted of older "regular people." These were the twenty-somethings that refrained from buying merchandise, chilled at the tables on either side of the ballroom or upstairs in the balcony, while sipping drinks and making frequent trips to the bar.

At 9 p.m. Mahjongg started the show. They were the most interesting portion added to the line up of the two opening acts of the night. The band had a sound filled with crazy and eclectic beats. Some of the instruments that contributed to those beats were a cowbell, a synthesizer, a keyboard, a tambourine, a violin, and then your basic instruments - a guitar, bass and drums.

The lead vocalist had a somewhat monotone/robotic voice that made her sound as if she were announcing strange lyrics over an intercom.

The Fuse took the stage at around 10 that night. Their lead singer was a strange guy dressed up in a brown suit like Rowan Atkinson's character Mr. Bean. He passed by the ballroom many times, along with other bands members including Pretty Girls Make Graves' guitarist, bassist and drummer.

This Mr. Bean character took the stage, announced their band and then quickly broke into song number one by screaming loudly and yelling hard to comprehend lyrics into the microphone, which deafened most of the people sitting at the tables on the opposite sides of the ballroom.

The drummer was a maniac, and the best thing that band had going for them. This guy would jump up and land in front of his drum set and he'd play the drums at high speed while circling around them.

The entire room went black and what sounded like an exercise tape came on and a man started reciting warm up exercises while some Journey song played in the background. Three of the band members of Pretty Girls Make Graves exercised their calves and did air push-ups. The lights came on the stage and the band came out and performed their first song, "Something Bigger, Something Brighter." Lead singer Andrea Zollo poured out her soul on stage while her fierce vocals filled the room and pushed violently out of the speakers.

Andrea was really nonchalant and like a happy little girl on stage thanking all of the performers and thanking the fans for their applauses and cheers after every song. The performance went on without a dull moment and ended with the same intense energy the band first brought up on stage.

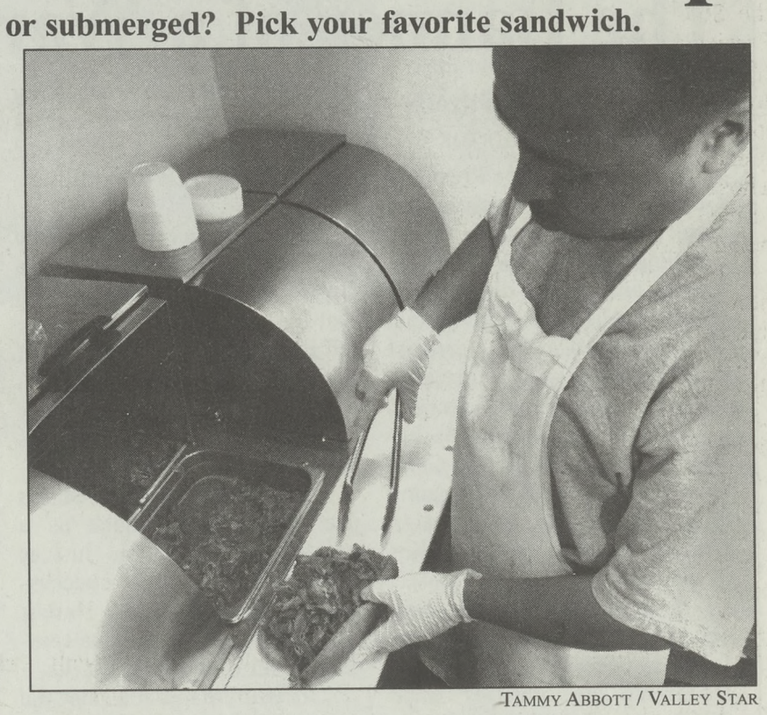
Additional content online - Go to www.lavalleystar.com

FOOD FOR YOU

Take A Dive Into The Dip

■ Dipped, double-dipped or submerged? Pick your favorite sandwich.

BY PETER O'CONNOR
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR



TAMMY ABBOTT / VALLEY STAR

FRESH MEAT - Gustavo Revbera prepares another full flavored favorite.

The Davitian family opened a little sandwich box on the corner of Ventura and Beverly Glen back in December of 2002. They had no idea they would have the success and praise received today simply from word of mouth. You have passed it repeatedly as you head to and from Sherman Oaks and always wonder but now it is time for you to sink your teeth into one of their dips.

"We plan on expanding as soon as we get this one going constantly," said family worker Robert Davitian. "Eventually we want a line like Pink's where people are waiting in line to get on of our sandwiches."

With the pork dip being a crowd favorite, this is a place where you glance at other customer's meals and want a bite of theirs as well. To enjoy the best tasting pork sandwich, you want to get there as they open at 11a.m. and get the pork in that next half hour when it is freshly out of the oven. The longer you wait for one of the other popular choices such as pastrami and roast beef the better. As they sit and soak up their own juices the more flavor it adds when you indulge in your sandwich.

Mashed potatoes and coleslaw sides compliment the juicy joy of your meal quite well leaving you wondering if you should have wrapped up that other half of your sandwich.

"It is hard to put the food down at The Dip," said customer Paul Mejia. "I leave here every time thinking if I should have saved that other half or not."

It is a good environment at this small Sherman Oaks corner spot. A covered seating area offers a lot of good people watching and the joy of eating as cars sit in traffic attempting to get over the hill or down Ventura.

"I have worked here since day one," said Dip cook Gustavo Revbera. "I have worked in many restaurants and the people up top have always looked down on me; here I feel like I am at home."

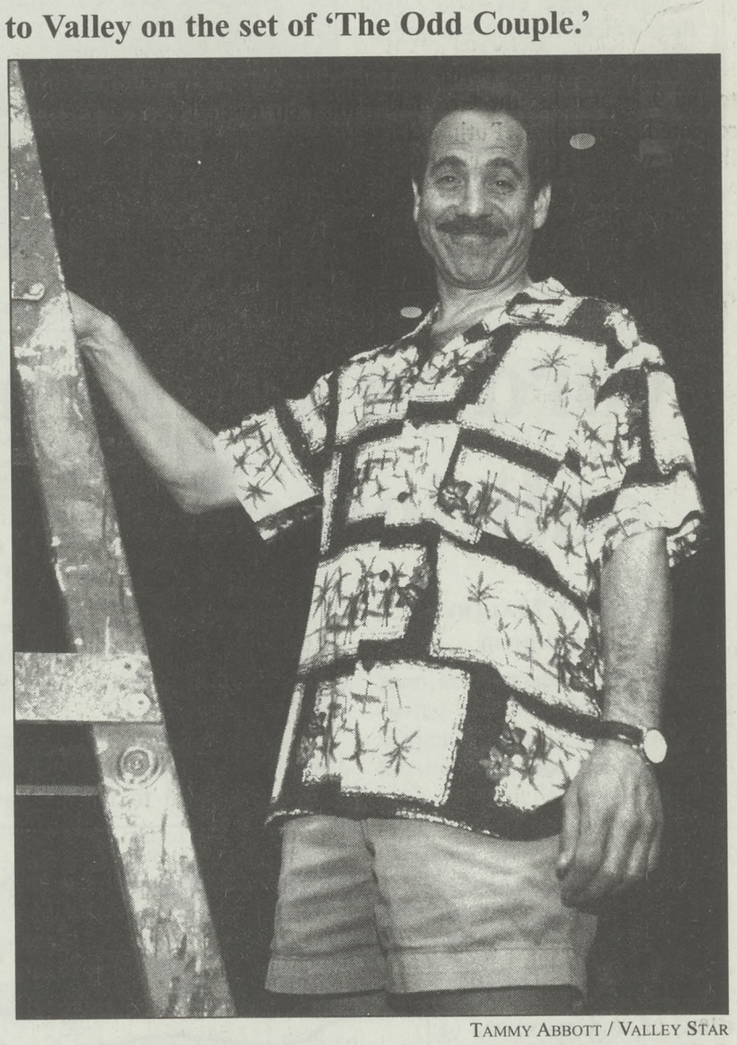
The Dip is at 14333 Ventura Blvd. in Sherman Oaks. They are open Monday to Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8p.m. and Sunday until 6p.m. They offer free delivery on minimal purchase requirements. (818) 501-1850 fax (818) 501-1865.

VALLEY PEOPLE

Soup Nazi Out Of The Kitchen

■ Larry Thomas returns to Valley on the set of 'The Odd Couple.'

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER



TAMMY ABBOTT / VALLEY STAR

NO SOUP THIS TIME - Former Valley student Larry Thomas rehearsing at the Mainstage Theater for the upcoming performance of "The Odd Couple."

It's not often that one line on a television show can pull an actor from semi obscurity into the lime-light. But when the 'soup nazi,' played by Larry Thomas, scowled and said "No soup for you" to George Costanza on the hit TV show 'Seinfeld', fanatics of the show fell to their knees in laughter - and the rest is history.

Thomas, a former Valley College student, was on campus for the past week rehearsing on the main stage for a production of "The Odd Couple," starring Barbara Eden and Rita McKenzie.

"We've been off (the play) for just over a year so this is kind of a preview rehearsal," Thomas said. "We felt like we should listen to some laughter before we opened next week at the Thousand Oaks Performing Arts Plaza."

"The Odd Couple," originally starring Walter Mattheau and Jack Lemmon, have been replaced by Eden and McKenzie, and the pigeon sisters, the crazy upstairs neighbors, are now played by the hilarious spanish Costazuela brothers, Manolo and Jesus, played by Thomas and David Castro.

"I was a journalism major here in 1976," Thomas said. "I remember one article I wrote, under the name of Larry Thomashoff, on why it was so important for students to eat a good breakfast before school."

Thomas said that he started here with piano lessons, and because he really didn't know how to play he went looking for help in the music department.

That's when he met 'her'. The temptress he described as the most beautiful girl in the world.

"I fell head over heels for her but couldn't quite find the courage to ask her out," Thomas said, "So instead I asked her what classes she was taking next semester. She told me she was taking all theater classes so I ran to the administration building and signed up for all the theater classes."

Thomas said that in fact it was because of her he ended up in this business. "She got me here and this is where I learned to act—where I got bitten by the (acting) bug."

Although Thomas never graduated from Valley he said he did hang around for some time trying to get that date with the beautiful girl and finally succeeded on his 21st birthday.

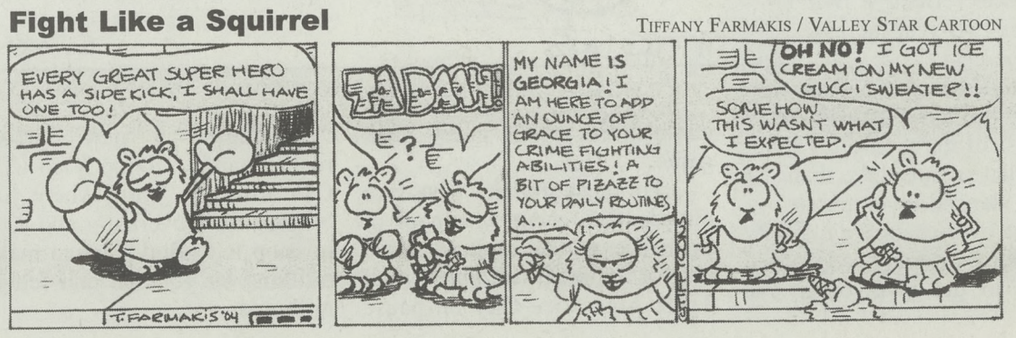
"I took her to the Ahmnanson Theater to see 'Chapter Two' when it first came out," Thomas said. "When I took her home, there were a dozen roses at her door—and they weren't from me."

The two eventually became very good friends and spent some time together in San Francisco at the American Conservatory of Music.

Although Thomas would like to do something so much bigger and better that would make everyone forget that he was the 'soup nazi,' he continues to travel around doing autograph shows, signing pictures of his 'nazi' character. "It helps pay the bills," he said.

Fight Like a Squirrel

TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR CARTOON


EVERY GREAT SUPER HERO HAS A SIDEKICK, I SHALL HAVE ONE TOO!
T.FARMAKIS '04
MY NAME IS GEORGIA! I AM HERE TO ADD AN OUNCE OF GRACE TO YOUR CRIME FIGHTING ABILITIES! A BIT OF PIZAZZ TO YOUR DAILY ROUTINES, A....
OH NO! I GOT ICE CREAM ON MY NEW GUCCI SWEATER!!
SOME HOW THIS WASN'T WHAT I EXPECTED.

July 22, 2003: A firefight with U.S. troops kills Saddam Hussein's sons, Uday and Qusay.

Aug. 19, 2003: A suicide bombing in Baghdad destroys U.N. headquarters, killing 24 and wounding more than 100.

Sept. 7, 2003: President Bush announces that $87 billion is needed to cover additional costs in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Oct. 16, 2003: The U.N. Security Council unanimously approves the coalition resolution on Iraq's reconstruction, including an international force under U.S. control.

Oct. 27, 2003: Suicide attacks against the Islamic Red Cross and several police stations in Baghdad kill 43 and wound more than 200.

Nov. 2, 2003: Resistance attacks throughout November claim the most U.S. lives (roughly 75) in a single month since the war began.

Nov. 14, 2003: The Bush Administration reverses policy and agrees to transfer power to an interim government in early 2004.

Dec. 9, 2003: Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, bars France, Germany, Canada, Mexico, China and Russia from bidding on reconstruction contracts.

Dec. 13, 2003: Saddam Hussein is captured by U.S. troops without resistance.

Jan. 15, 2004: Tens of thousands of Shiites in Basra demonstrate peacefully in support of direct elections.

Jan. 17, 2004: The U.S. death toll hits 500.

Jan. 19, 2004: In the largest protest since the war began, 100,000 Shiites march in support of Ayatollah al-Sistani's demand for direct elections.

Jan. 28, 2004: Lead investigator David Kay confirms to the senate that no WMD have been found and claims that prewar intelligence was "almost all wrong."

Feb. 1, 2004: Suicide bombings in Erbil kill 109 Iraqis.

Feb. 2, 2004: President Bush calls for an independent commission to study related intelligence failures, but tells it not to report until the following year.

March 8, 2004: The Iraqi Governing Council signs interim constitution.

'Iraq'

continued from page 1

In that speech, Powell presented satellite photographs of trailers he called mobile chemical weapons factories. And in the State of the Union speech, President Bush made mention of intelligence confirming that Iraq was illegally acquiring yellowcake uranium from Niger in order to foster a nuclear threat. Those claims have since been refuted, with the Niger evidence being exposed as fraudulent.

The primary point of contention between the administration and the rest of the U.N. Security Council was the U.S. position that Hussein was such a clear and present danger to world safety that war must commence without a waiting period to allow the recently-readmitted weapons inspectors to prove conclusively whether Iraq had complied with disarmament orders.

"Fears are one thing, hard facts are another," said Russian Federation President Vladimir V. Putin in a press conference. "Russia does not have in its possession any trustworthy data that supports the existence of nuclear weapons or any weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and we have not received any such information from our partners yet. This fact has also been supported by the information sent by the CIA to the U.S. Congress."

A 61-page study by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in January found no conclusive evidence to support administration claims that Hussein was cooperating with al Qaeda or would have transferred chemical, biological or nuclear weapons to the terrorist group.

In fact, despite opinion polls showing that up to 80 percent of Americans believed that Saddam Hussein was connected to the 9/11 attacks, the CIA has repeatedly stated, as Putin said, that it was unable to establish any such link. Earlier this year, Bush Administration officials acknowledged that lack of evidence and distanced themselves from that rationale for the war.

The Carnegie report also stated, "Iraq posed no imminent threat to the United States and there was no solid evidence that (Hussein) was cooperating with the al Qaeda terrorist network. The Bush administration systematically misrepresented a weapons threat from Iraq."

However, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said that the United States should "shape," not just react to, the world, snuffing out even potential threats. Wolfowitz, an architect of the adminstration's preemptive war policy, believes that the U.S. should act alone when necessary.

So far no WMDs have been found, causing some to wonder whether the U.S. was in earnest when it used that perceived threat as a justification.

"From the start, we were building the case against [Saddam] Hussein and looking at how we could take him out and change Iraq into a new country ... For me, the notion that the U.S. has the unilateral right to do whatever we decide to do, is a really huge leap," Paul O'Neill, former Secretary of the Treasury and member of the National Security Council said.

Countries like Germany, Russia and France criticized the U.S.-led war against Iraq, stating that the task of unearthing weapons of mass destruction should be left to U.N. weapons inspectors. One of the lead inspectors, Scott Ritter, crusaded against the invasion, saying the teams had proven that Iraq did not pose a WMD threat.

"What we do know about the biological weapons sphere is that whatever the Iraqis produced cannot be viable today," Ritter told The Valley Star. "It only has a shelf life of three years."

Others have accused the U.S. of eyeing Iraq's massive oil wealth and that its campaign against WMDs was only a convenient cover-up. Iraq has 10.8 percent of the world's total oil resources, and the U.S. Department of Energy speculates that the number could be closer to 20 percent due to unexplored regions inside the country.

The U.N. Security Council adopted Resolution 1483 in May 2003, which ended sanctions and endorsed the creation of Development Fund for Iraq, overseen by a board of accountants, including U.N., World Bank and IMF representatives.

"The intent is to use (dispose and dispense) Iraq's resources to the benefit of the people of Iraq," John Negroponte, U.S. representative for the U.N., said.

Critics argue that this wouldn't benefit the people of Iraq, but the major oil companies in the U.S.

"The president wanted to alleviate the economic sanctions from Iraq allowing the country to produce oil at its full capacity," Valley student Edmund Richter said. "That would bring a lot more oil into the global market. That's a very good thing for countries dependent on oil like the U.S."

However, according to Phyllis Bennis, an oil expert at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C. the combat in Iraq wasn't about an U.S. effort to access oil.

"We don't get most of our oil from the Middle East," Bennis said. "We don't even get most of our foreign oil from the Middle East."

Despite the ongoing debate over the validity of the war, the administration points to hopeful signs that lasting progress is being made in the democratizing of Iraq.

Until recently, objections among the Shiite population (a transnational force in the Middle East, with loyalty toward spiritual rather than secular leaders) have delayed attempts at forming a written constitution for the country.

Iraq's Governing Council earlier this month signed a landmark interim constitution after resolving the political impasse sparked by objections from the country's most powerful cleric. The signing is a key step in U.S. plans to hand over power to the Iraqis by July 1 of this year.

The charter, which includes a 13-article bill of rights, enshrines Islam as the state religion and a primary basis of law, and outlines the shape of a parliament and presidency as well as a federal structure for the country. It will remain in effect until a permanent constitution is approved by a national referendum planned for late 2005.

Even with the promise of a new democratic government, many people remain skeptical of the future of Iraq.

"Though we are rushing to establish a government that will allow us to withdraw, so far there is no plan describing the path to that end," Washington Post Senior Correspondent Robert Kaiser wrote. "What started out as a military undertaking now has a primarily political objective. But there is no way to achieve that objective. This is just what happened in Vietnam."

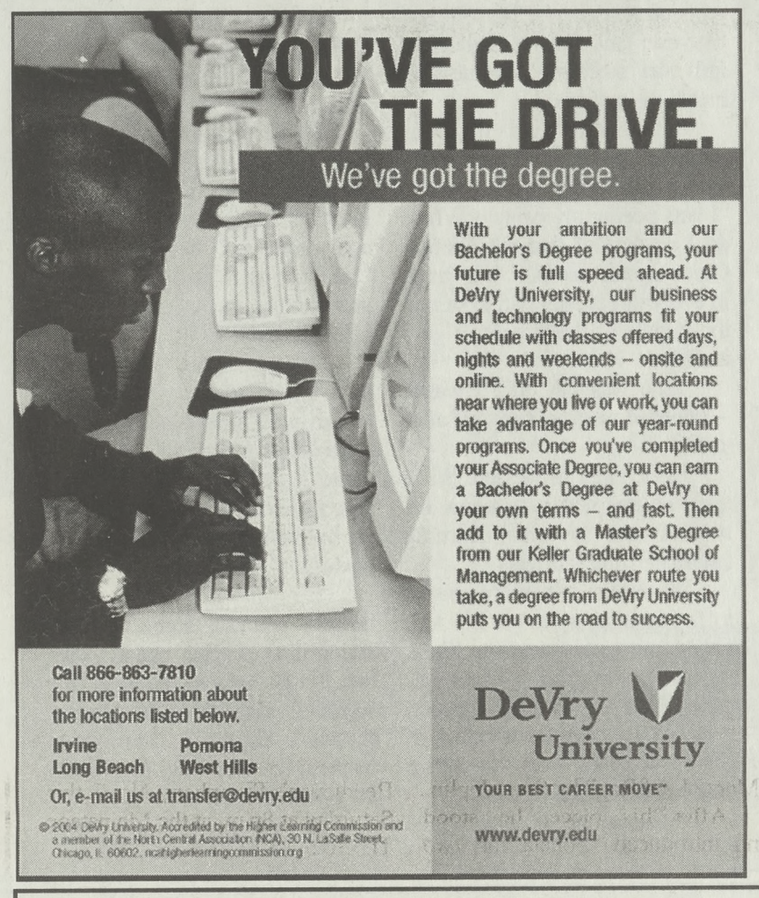
Despite President Bush's well-publicized appearance on an aircraft carrier before a banner reading, "Mission Accomplished," declaring that major combat operations had ended and the December 13 capture of Hussein, more than 130,000 troops remain in the region and coalition casualties continue to mount. The U.S. military suffered nearly four times as many deaths (440) since the declaration of victory than before it (115). In fact, violence has escalated in the nation since the capture of Hussein.

Around the world, popular anger over the war is being felt at the polls, as Spain's socialist party scored an upset victory in that country's general election earlier this week. Spain is considered America's second-most important ally in the Iraq conflict (behind Great Britain), and the ouster of its leaders is seen as revenge for aligning themselves with the Bush Administration against the will of their people.

According to political science professor Anthony O'Regan, the new Spanish regime's decision to withdraw from Iraq is unwise.

"If the Spanish think they are going to appease Osama bin Laden by pulling out their troops, they're fooling themselves," O'Regan said. "You've got to stand up to the bin Ladens of the world."

Nevertheless, with opinion polls showing Americans fairly equally divided in their views on the war, this week the Bush Administration will commemorate the anniversary of the March 20th Iraq invasion with what insiders are describing as an aggressive, weeklong plan to remind the country of what U.S. and coalition troops have faced and what they've accomplished so far.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'Smoking'

continued from page 1

blue-collar workers and the unemployed.

Valley student Ilia Nemirovski, 50, says he knows that smoking is unhealthy and he has been trying to quit for a long time.

"I've smoked for over 35 years. I've tried many times and I can't quit," said Nemirovski.

Despite the recent medical reports, Nemirovski, a computer/English double major, believes that his education level is not related to his ability to kick the habit. "I have a lot of health problems and smoking makes me feel better," he said.

Nemirovski plans to keep smoking and studying regardless of his health issues.

"When I'm not sick, I'm trying to study," he said.

Additional content online - Go to www.lavalleystar.com

Annie Reed Wins Woman of the Year Award

■ Reed accepts the award at ceremony in Sacramento Monday.

BY SAM HAHN
STAFF WRITER

Annie Reed, valley's director of the extension program and community services, received the 2004 woman of the year award at a ceremony in Sacramento Monday

Reed was nominated by the 43rd District Assembly member Dario Frommer and was honored in the state's legislature.

"We chose to nominate Mrs. Reed based on her excellent work in her community (North Hollywood)," said Karen Kim, spokesperson for Dario Frommer.

The award is given to individuals who are nominated by assembly members in each of the state's 80 districts.

Reed explained her experience as both chaotic and exciting.

"My husband (Dennis Reed) and I were there basically all day from 9 a.m to 4 p.m. It was an enormous assembly, and everyone nominated got to meet and take a picture with Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante," said Reed.

Part of the award stated, "As Californians, we all benefit because of your actions, and I welcome you to our State Capitol in appreciation of and respect for your tremendous achievements as one of the extraordinary women of California."

Reed said that she was honored to be recognized by the state. In October 2003, Reed received recognition by the district and Sen. Jack Scott, but considers this award to be a far greater honor.

A reception commemorating the award is scheduled for Thursday March18, 12: 30 to 2 p.m. in the President's Conference Room.

ATTENTION JEWISH STUDENTS

Beit Cafe
Israeli Coffeehouse
Free Israeli Feast and Show!

Sunday May 2 - 7:00 pm
Tempo Mediterranean Restaurant
16610 Ventura Blvd., Encino
Free

Thanks to a generous IRA grant from the Jewish Federation Valley Alliance, Pierce/Valley Hillel & CSUN Hillel will be hosting an Israeli Beit Cafe. Jewish Students from campuses across the Valley and outlying areas will be invited to audition to perform on stage that evening as well as attend this event.

If you are interested in performing, please contact us right away to arrange an audition.

If you'd like to attend the event, admission is free, but space is limited.

Contact Pierce/Valley Hillel by April 23 to reserve your space at (818) 887-5901 or PVHillel@earthlink.net

visit us on the web: http://HillelatPV.com/

THE JEWISH FEDERATION VALLEY ALLIANCE

Pierce-Valley Hillel Celebrating 40 Years of Excellence

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or drop us a line at BJ114.

Be sure to include your name and contact information.

Please limit your letters to
200-300 words. Letters may be edited for publication.
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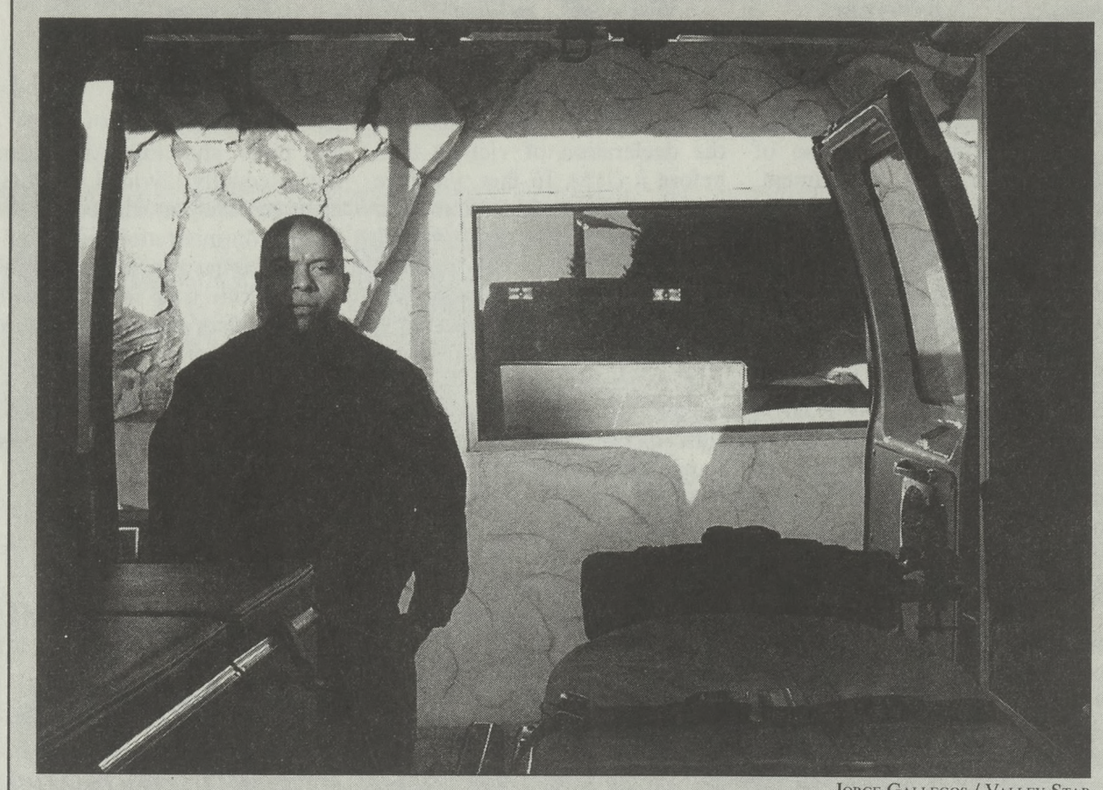


JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

Preparing - Biology student Frank Flores wants to pursue a careeer as a paramedic.

'Flores'

continued from page 1

paramedic. He tried out for the California Highway Patrol but was barred due to a stigmatism in his right eye. After that, he tried studying to be a mechanical engineer, but said, "Nothing inside motivated me to keep doing it." Eventually, while working at a restaurant, one of his co-workers became interested in being an EMT and Flores tried it out for himself.

"I took one class and just fell in love with it," he says. "You know how, some classes, you just go through the motions? Well, I look forward to the next class."

Those who know him consistently mention his determination and willingness to do the hard work. Instructors such as William Krauss (biology) remember him as an "outstanding student," ranking among the highest in his class.

Dr. Alan Cowen, chair of Valley's emergency services department, says Flores "represents the best of our students in our Fire Technology program … [he is] worth his weight in gold if someone needs emergency medical care. Frank can and will respond to save a life - and he will do it in a heartbeat."

That self-confidence represents quite a change from Flores' first-ever call, when a 12-year-old girl was suffering shortness of breath in Inglewood.

"I couldn't find my way around, I couldn't map my way to the destination," says Flores. "I was peeing my pants – Where do I go now? I had the Thomas Guide upside down, I was going in every direction. I had to stop in the middle of the street to figure it all out.

"She was OK, but I wasn't – I needed treatment myself after that."

He learned his lesson. Since then, he has gotten to know his way around the area, learning landmarks and shortcuts.

Flores has two more classes in fire technology to get his A.S. Other courses of interest to Frank include history and political science. He sees a direct connection between learning the workings of government and being an active and involved citizen today.

"Political science correlates because Schwarzenegger is trying to cut pay to firefighters, policemen, anyone who works in the government," says Flores. "How you vote really comes around to affect you. You really have to look at your priorities – do you want fewer firefighters helping you out?"

Science major Gus Gonzalez, who has known Flores for two years, sounds a familiar refrain in describing him as an ambitious and motivated. Gonzalez adds, "He's a go-getter; he sets his goals and pursues them actively – and he's a ladies' man."

Although Flores says he follows any sport but hockey, goes to the gym, movies, the museum – anything to take his mind off work – and lists sleeping as a favorite hobby, he remains hooked on the hard work and gratifying rewards of his service.

"It's what you make of it," he says enthusiastically. "It may sound like a cliché, but if I save one life in my whole career, it's worth it. Also, being a minority [Flores is Hispanic], if anyone is inspired by what I do, that would be a great thing."

'Bathroom'

continued from page 2

"We were thinking about forming a task force to note when bathrooms are in disarray."

Brevard believes that only a few students are responsible for the messes and that students from neighboring Grant High School may also be to blame. By noting the times when the bathrooms are in disarray and by circulating a petition to increase awareness of the problem among students, Brevard hopes that it may be alleviated if not remedied.

Sometimes the bathrooms are just too filthy for students to use.

"A couple times I drove home to my nice, clean bathroom," liberal studies student Lusine Safaryan said.

When asked about the conditions of open facilities, nursing student Rhonda Rogers said: "I haven't really noticed the open bathrooms being dirtier. It's hard to tell because they're so skuzzy in the first place."

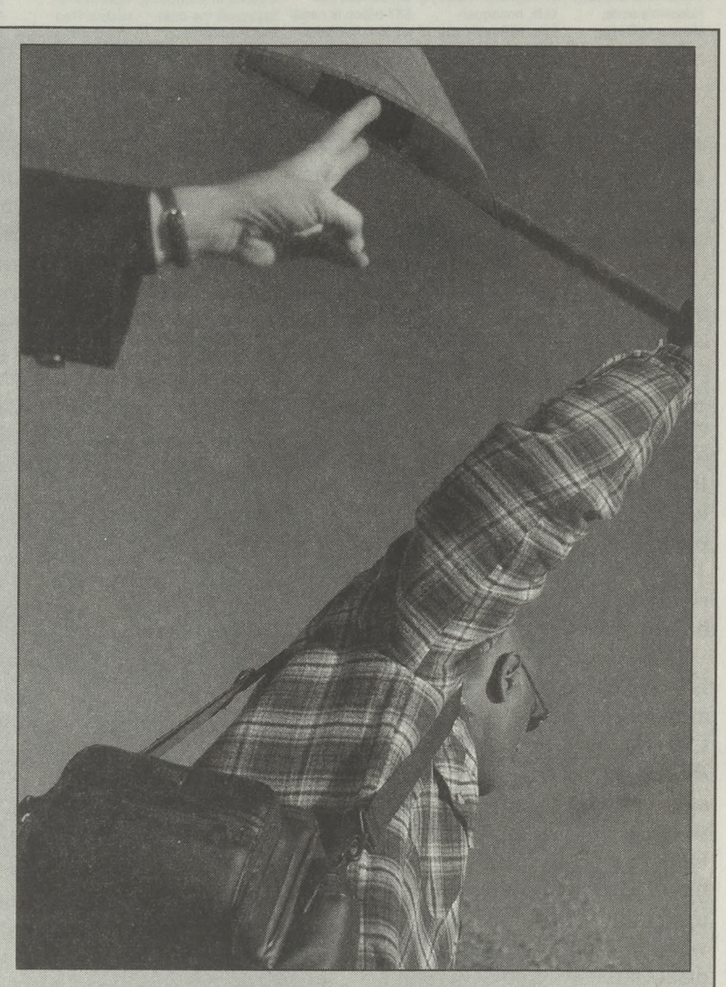
Jacobsmeyer has received few complaints from faculty about the noise disrupting their classes but explains that the there's not much that can be done to lessen the inconvenience. "We're going to have to get used to [it] for the next seven years, because of construction and renovations."

"Every college in the area is going through this to some degree," said Jacobsmeyer.

'Textbook'

continued from page 2

Legislators and watchdog organizations like the California Public Interest Research Group claim that book publishers are "ripping students off" by packaging books in ways that continue to drive prices up. Carol Liu [D-La Canada-Flintridge], chair of the Higher Education Committee, is currently scrutinizing 'bundling' – the marketing practice of including CDs and other add-ons with textbooks.



SALVADOR AGUILAR / VALLEY STAR

IRAQ WAR PROTEST - This anti-war photo by Salvador Aguilar finished third at the recent Journalism Association of Community Colleges competition.

'Development'

continued from page 2

to leading extensive outreach efforts to ensure that their goal is met."

Newspapers surrounding the campuses will carry ads to that effect and information will be accessible on web sites.

Business owners will also have access to information about the program at designated sites on all of the campuses, officials said.

The program will include mentoring to improve business skills and develop understanding of the district's bidding process and offer bid conferences or walk-through bids.

"Clearly the LACCD is committed to furthering its mission of contributing to the economic development of the community," said Mark Iles, president of the Proposition A District Citizens' Oversight Committee.

"The board's policy is more than a statement of good intentions. I applaud the board for developing a program that is proactive and demands accountability."

'Teen Sex'

continued from page 2

who are educated about sex are three times more likely to use protection the first time they have sex and thereafter than teenagers who have never learned about practicing safe sex.

According to the researchers, "This, in turn, may increase the likelihood that they will later engage in unprotected, and thus risky, sexual behavior."

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SPORTS

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LAVC SCORES

Baseball @ Citrus
(L 4-7) 3/13/04
Baseball Record: 0-19
Softball vs. Citrus
(W 11-3) 3/11/04
WP: Amanda Salazar
Second Consecutive Complete Game
Softball Record: 7-10

LAVC SCHEDULE

Wednesday 3/17/04
No Scheduled Games
Thursday 3/18/04
Baseball vs. Canyons 2 p.m.
Softball vs. Canyons 2:30 p.m.
Friday 3/19/04
No Scheduled Games
Saturday 3/20/04
Track & Field @ CSUN 8:30 a.m.
Baseball @ Canyons 1 p.m.
Sunday 3/21/04
No Scheduled Games
Monday 3/22/04
No Scheduled Games
Tuesday 3/23/04
Softball @ Bakersfield 1 p.m.
Wednesday 3/24/04
Swim @ El Camino 1 p.m.

PRO SCORES

L.A. Lakers vs. Orlando Magic
(W 113-110 OT) 3/15/04
Kobe Bryant: 38 pts*, 10-13 ft, 4 ast
*24 pts in Fourth Quarter, ties franchise record
Shaquille O'Neal: 27 pts, 23 rb, 5 blk
Gary Payton: 12 pts, 9 rb, 2 stl
LAL Record: 44-23, Third Place West. Conf.
L.A. Clippers vs. Dal. Mavericks
(L 88-101) 3/14/04
Quentin Richardson: 32 pts, 11 rb, 5 ast
Corey Maggette: 25 pts, 8 rb, 6 ast
Keyon Dooling: 10 pts, 3 ast, 8-8 ft
LAC Record: 26-40
L.A. Kings vs. Ana. Mighty Ducks
(W 5-1) 3/14/04
LAK Record: 28-20-16-7
AMD Record: 25-28-9-8

NOTES

LAVC
After nine years with the Lady Monarchs basketball team (four as head coach), Mike Muro is stepping down. Muro compiled a 101-36 record. Assistant coach Ruth Seja will take over.

NBA
Testimony in the murder trial of former NBA star Jayson Williams continued Monday with testimony from Harlem Globetrotter Howard Paul Gaffney in which he said he knelt by the side of the slain chauffer and begged for his soul to be sent to God.

NBA
Phoenix Sun guard Joe Johnson made a 16-foot jumper with 1.4 seconds left in the game Monday to defeat the Houston Rockets 99-97, ending the Rockets' five-game winning streak.

NBA
The league talked to Dallas Maverick coach Don Nelson Tuesday that an e-mail sent to former NBA guard Avery Johnson offering him a job this postseason was inapporpriate. Johnson is still under contract with the Golden State Warriors.

NBA
The Toronto Raptors signed former Laker guard Corie Blount Friday after being released by the Chicago Bulls March 2.

NBA
Los Angeles Laker guard Kobe Bryant scored 24 points in the fourth quarter of the Lakers' 113-110 victory over the Orlando Magic Monday in Staples Center. Bryant tied a franchise record for most points in a single quarter.

NHL
The NBA approved its part in the sale of the Atlanta Hawks and the Atlanta Thrashers to Boston businessman Steve Belkin Friday, but the NHL is yet to approve the deal.

NHL
New Jersey Devils owner Lou Lamoriello said Tuesday that defenseman Brian Rifalski will miss the rest of the regular season due to a broken right leg.

MLB
Hall of Fame pitcher Jim Palmer is expressing concern over the 50-homerun season for Brady Anderson of the Baltimore Orioles in 1996. Palmer believes that steroids played a part in his Oriole-record breaking season. Anderson hit 16 and 18 homeruns the seasons before and after 1996.

MLB
San Diego Padre reliever Rod Beck will be out indefinitely to deal with personal problems and may not be available for opening day.

MLB
New Los Angeles Dodgers owner Frank McCourt may serve as team president for a short time after Boston Red Sox executive Mike Dee turned down the job.

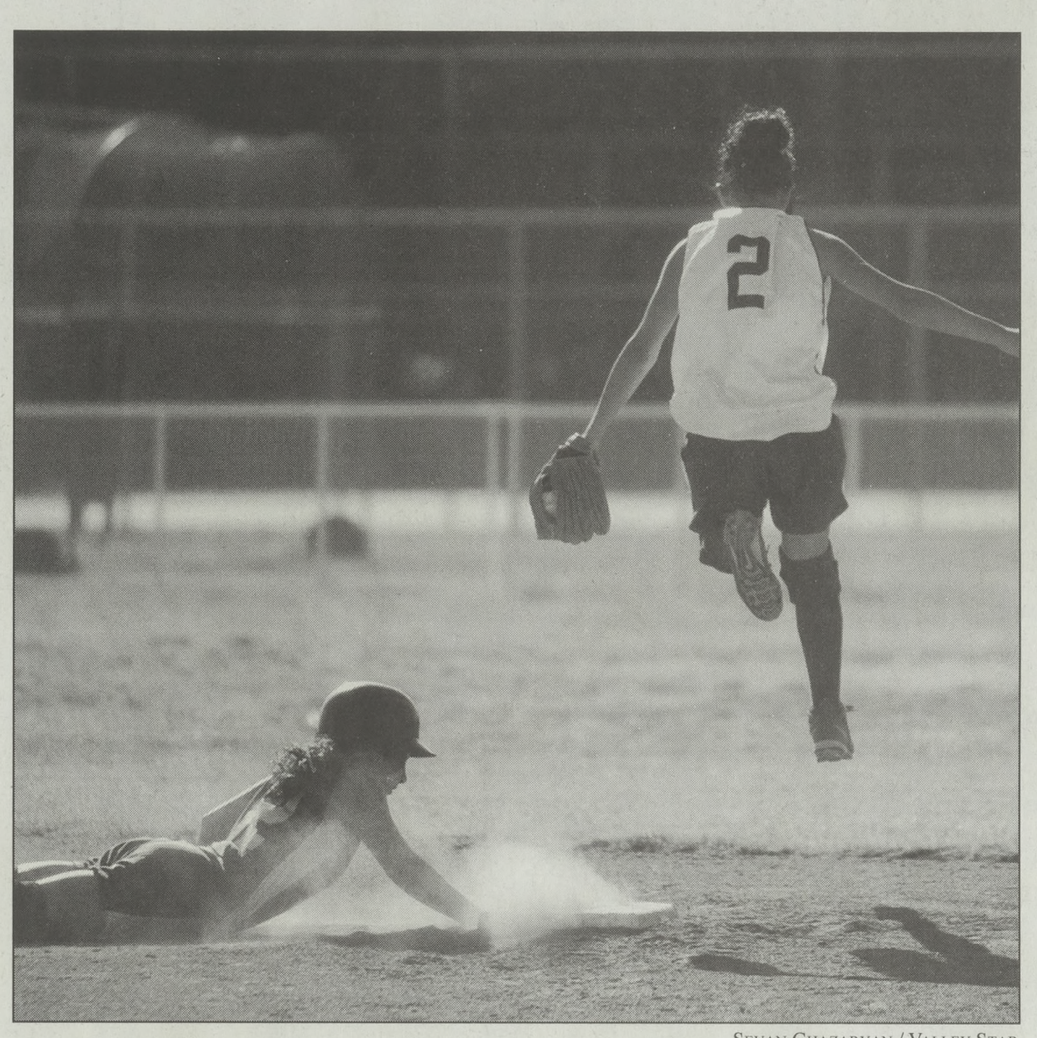
MLB
New York Yankee outfielder Gary Sheffield returned to the lineup Friday as a designated hitter against the Houston Astros.

WSC SOFTBALL

Owls Sleep, Monarchs Take Advantage

■ **Good base running and better defense keeps the Owls asleep.**

BY PETER O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER



SEVAN GHAZARYAN / VALLEY STAR

UP AND OVER - Valley Monarch pitcher Amanda Salazar, 32, slides into second base as Citrus Owl infielder Samantha Jones, 2, jumps after catching a wild throw.

The Lady Monarchs softball team clobbered the Citrus Owls in a dominating 11–3 clinic at Valley College Thursday in their second full game in a row.

The Owls (1-13) came out strong and jumped to an early 3-0 lead in the top of the first on three base hits and a throwing error by Valley (7-10) pitcher Amanda Salazar; she closed the top of the inning with her third strike out.

The Lady Monarchs bounced right back in the bottom of the inning by loading the bases and bringing in three runs on multiple Owl errors including a passed ball and a dropped infield fly.

The game went to a six-out stalemate until Valley went through the lineup in a five-run bashing in the bottom of the fourth. A hit batter, a drive to center and a walk loaded the bases for catcher Lorena Arrequin who hit a three run RBI double to right field. Simultaneous throwing errors by Citrus shortstop Tina Cleveland and third base Christy Flores allowed two more runs to come in for Valley.

The Citrus Owls continued with running errors and poor pitching by right-hander Jessica Flores and the Lady monarchs continued to walk over them. It was only a matter of time before Valley would increase the gap and has the game called on an eight-run lead.

On a walk and two stolen bases, left fielder Sandra Chavez advanced herself onto third base. On a passed ball by Owl pitcher Flores, Chavez slid into home beating the tag. The Owls had nothing left.

Three up and three down in the top of seven led to Valley's last two runs to call the game in the seventh. Monarch catcher Lorena Arrequin drove another ball to the fence and landed a triple. Shortstop Christie Sotelo followed by sending the ball into right for a triple and then ran home on a throwing error to third ending the game on an embarrassing note for the Owls.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
CITRUS	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	8
L.A. VALLEY	3	0	0	5	0	2	1	11	9	2

Upcoming Schedule

Opponent	Date	Time
Canyons	3/18	2 p.m.
@ Canyons	3/20	1 p.m.
Mission	3/27	1 p.m.

WSC BASEBALL

Monarchs Let First Win Slip Away

■ **Valley blows early lead to drop by three in Azusa.**

BY SAM HAHN AND C.J. HARRIS
STAFF WRITERS

The Monarch baseball team lost a hard-fought game 7-4 against the Citrus Owls Saturday, dropping their overall record to 0-19.

Valley, led by the clutch hitting of right fielder Anthony Mose (3-5 with two stolen bases) and catcher Jordan Wolfe (2-5 hitting, 2 RBIs, and three runners caught stealing), kept the game close until the end.

Starting pitcher Jorge Olmedo threw 70 pitches (40 strikes) in 5 1/3 innings, surrendering two runs.

After taking the lead in the second inning, the Monarchs struggled in the bottom half as the Owls jumped on pitchers Phil Rivers and Jose Munoz throughout the inning by scoring four runs on four hits.

"I came out flat, but [the team] came to play," said starting shortstop Abel Pulido who struggled as he accounted for all four of the team's errors that lead to many scoring opportunities for the Owls during the game.

Pulido also said that the team failed to stay focused late in the game as the Monarchs stranded three runners late in the game.

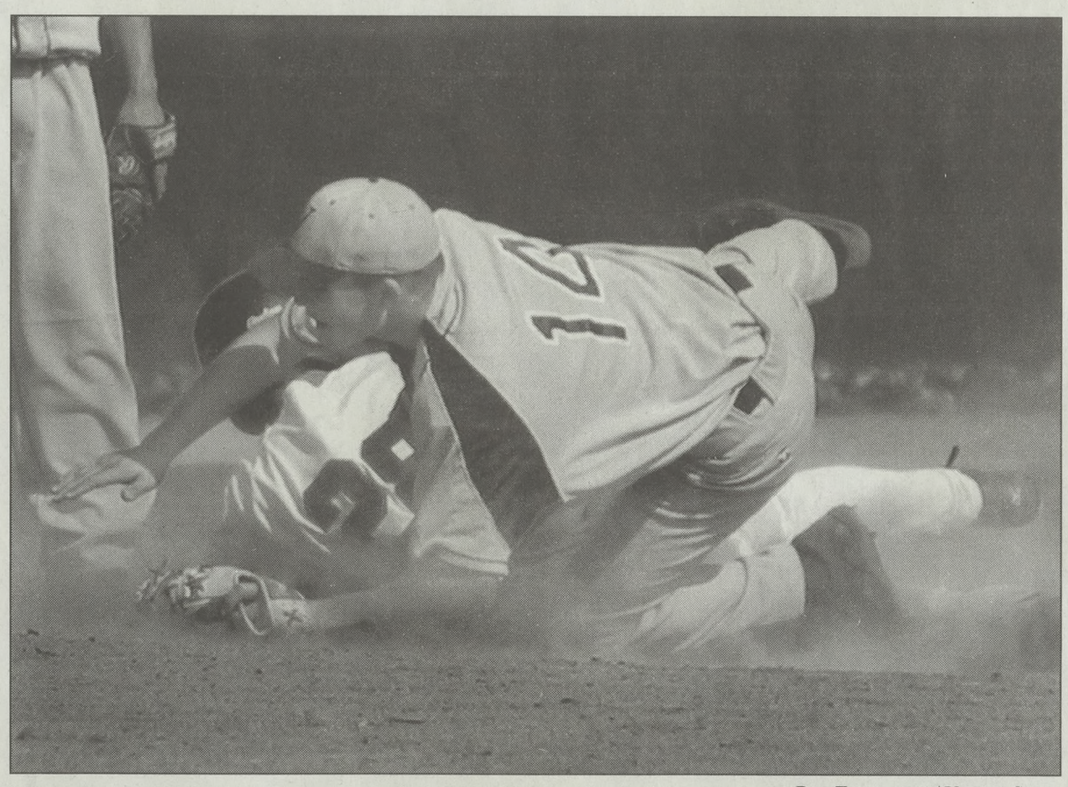
Despite the loss, Mose and Wolfe were glad with the team's play.

"There is no frustration… this is the first time all season that we came together and played as a team," said Mose.

"We are taking positive steps," Wolfe said. "Our pitchers are hitting their spots and the team is coming together."

Despite the loss head coach Chris Johnson said the team played well. "We played much better today," he said. "This is the best the team could do right now."

Valley has an opportunity to break their 19 game losing skid as they play College of the Canyons Thursday at home.



BOB TEICHMANN / VALLEY STAR

CRASH AND BURN - Monarch second baseman Tyler Slifer, 14, hits the floor after tagging out Owl runner Chris Robbel, 28, on a collision Saturday in Azusa. The Monarchs fell to 0-19 after losing 7-4.

Upcoming Schedule

Opponent	Date	Time
Canyons	3/18	2 p.m.
@ Canyons	3/20	1 p.m.
@Mission	3/27	1 p.m.
Mission	3/30	2 p.m.
@ Bakersfield	4/1	3 p.m.
Bakersfield	4/3	1 p.m.
@ S. Barbara*	4/9	1 p.m.
Glendale	4/15	2:30 p.m.
@ Glendale	4/17	2 p.m.
Pierce	4/20	2:30 p.m.
@ Pierce	4/22	2:30 p.m.

***Denotes non-conference Games**

Additional Info and scores available online at www.lavc.edu

BASEBALL
Los Angeles Valley College
Western State Conference
BOX SCORE
vs. Citrus Owls
March 13, 2004
Azusa, CA

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
L.A. VALLEY	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	8	4
CITRUS	2	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	7	10	2

A Wet Rivalry

■ **Women stay afloat while men sink.**

BY DAVID BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Valley and Pierce colleges renewed their athletic rivalry in Friday's swim and dive meet, with mixed results.

The cross-town rivalry is most apparent in the annual Monarchs versus Brahmahs football game. Swim has only a few fans. Yet the competition is just as intense, with both teams pushing their limits for the honor of their college.

This time both teams walk away with wins: Valley took the women's competition and Pierce, the men's.

The meet started with diving, for the men one of Valley's 3 divers, Sloan Bailey took first in the 1 meter, 144.75 points, and second in the 3 meter, 112.6 points.

Since Pierce had no women divers, Valley was awarded a 13-0 lead before any of the swim events. Lauren Stanley took first over the other two divers with the score of 165.9 points.

"They did really really well," said diving coach Gale Tankusaul. "I'm proud of all of them."

The swimming events were very intense with the two schools trading victories. Valley was able to ride 13-point lead from the diving penalty and first-place finishes in five events to secure a 64-44 win.

The men's competition was back-and-forth as both teams' best swimmers placed in events and racked up points. Even though the Monarchs only had three first places in the swimming events, they maintained the overall lead, 54-52, before the last event.

That event, the 400-meter freestyle relay, was worth seven points for first while second would get none, allowing the competition to be decided by this event. Pierce won decisively by 10.71 seconds, making the final score 59-54 for Pierce.

They say a tie is like kissing your sister. This wet kiss ought to get these two teams fired up for next year's rematch. The rivalry lives on.

MARCHING MANNEQUINS

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY JORGE GALLEGOS
STAFF WRITER

LAYOUT
BY JORGE GALLEGOS
AND BOB TEICHMANN

JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

TUNNING UP - ASU Vice President Julius Frasier tried to cheer their partners in their way to the point of gathering.

More than 15,000 students from all 109 community colleges throughout California gathered at Sacramento's Capitol Building to protest against the increase on tuition fees.

A feeling of camaraderie was apparent on the way to Rally Field, the starting point. Students outside were welcomed with signs, chants and applause as they were joined by buses ready to roll.

A mile-long march to Sacramento's Capitol building followed with the Sacramento River bridge witnessing the mad juvenile voices.

"Missy" was the name of the mannequin that represented Valley, adding to the 108 other mannequins that were posted outside the capitol simulating all the missing students affected by the increase.

The rally ended at 2 p.m. sending the students back to their buses and all 23 Valley students back to the Southland.

JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

ALL OF YOU - Valley College ASU President James Brevard made himself heard at the "March in March" rally.

JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

MISSING STUDENTS - One hundred and nine mannequins were present outside of Sacramento's capitol building simulating all the missing students affected by the increases on the tuition fees.

JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

THE MARCH IS OVER - More than 15,000 students gathered in Sacramento returned to thier buses leaving trash cans full of signs.

JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

ARE YOU MAD? - LACCD Student Trustee Stacy McMullen yells at the crowd outside of Sacramento's capitol building.